

Introduced by Senator Yee

May 24, 2013

Senate Joint Resolution No. 13—Relative to immigration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SJR 13, as introduced, Yee. Immigration reform: F3 and F4 visa categories.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and F4 visa categories. The measure would memorialize the President and Congress to take a comprehensive, bipartisan, and well reasoned approach to immigration issues that maintains the fair and appropriate priority for family reunification.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, Immigrants are a vibrant, productive, and vital part
2 of California's growing economy, diverse cultural fabric, and
3 changing demographics; and

4 WHEREAS, Immigrants fuel California's economy through
5 their labor and entrepreneurship, comprising approximately
6 one-third of California's labor force and figuring prominently in
7 key economic sectors such as agriculture, construction,
8 manufacturing, and services; and

9 WHEREAS, Federal legislation has been proposed that offers
10 a path to citizenship for many of the 11 million undocumented
11 immigrants already living in the United States; and

12 WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the proposed law eliminates the F4
13 visa category so that United States citizens will no longer be able

1 to sponsor their brothers and sisters. It also places an age cap on
2 the F3 visa category so that United States citizens can only sponsor
3 their adult children if they are not more than 30 years old; and

4 WHEREAS, Eliminating the ability of United States citizens to
5 sponsor their loved ones such as brothers, sisters, and adult married
6 children 31 years of age and older, runs counter to the family values
7 that are a cornerstone of our nation. It is also counterproductive
8 since it limits the ability of immigrant families to contribute to the
9 entrepreneurship and innovation that have been vital drivers of
10 economic growth throughout our nation's history; and

11 WHEREAS, People with their families are happier, healthier,
12 and more able to succeed than those living apart for years on end.
13 By pooling resources, families can do together what they cannot
14 do alone—start businesses, create jobs, and contribute more to the
15 general welfare; and

16 WHEREAS, Eliminating the F4 and altering the F3 visa
17 categories will have a profound impact on Asian Americans and
18 Pacific Islanders. In November 2012, there were 4.3 million people
19 in the family immigration backlog, nearly one-half of whom were
20 from Asian countries. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
21 sponsored over 40 percent of all family-based visas in 2010. Some
22 Asian immigrants have been forced to wait as long as 23 years to
23 be reunited with their families in the United States, largely due to
24 the limitations and inefficiencies of our legal immigration system;
25 and

26 WHEREAS, We support the expansion of availability of H-1B
27 visas as well as other visas necessary to bring needed workers into
28 our country to grow our economy; and

29 WHEREAS, We commend the efforts of the federal government
30 in working towards a comprehensive reform measure that is
31 compassionate to the immigrant, protects our nation's economy,
32 and safeguards our national security while upholding the dignity
33 of the United States Constitution. However, we strongly encourage
34 congressional representatives to reexamine the possible elimination
35 of the F4 visa category and modification of the F3 visa category;
36 and

37 WHEREAS, A bipartisan, comprehensive workable immigration
38 reform package must be based not only on a path towards
39 permanent residency and citizenship, but also on the promotion

1 of strong and healthy families who are the core of our vibrant
2 nation; now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
4 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
5 respectfully memorializes the President and the Congress of the
6 United States to reject all immigration reform efforts that seek to
7 hurt families by eliminating or negatively impacting the F3 and
8 F4 visa categories; and be it further

9 *Resolved*, That the Legislature urges the President and the
10 Congress of the United States to take a comprehensive, bipartisan,
11 and well-reasoned approach to solving our nation's broken
12 immigration system, while maintaining the fair and appropriate
13 priority for family reunification; and be it further

14 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
15 this resolution to the President and the Vice President of the United
16 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
17 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
18 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
19 States.